

ELKO INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

News Release

**Wednesday, June 29, 2006, 8:30 a.m.
Elko County Fires, Update #9**

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FIRES CONTINUE BURNING NEAR ELKO, NEVADA

Elko, Nevada ... Fire fighters making good progress on Elko County Fires

Fire fighters are getting a break in the weather and continue fighting three large fires burning in northeastern Nevada.

The Suzie Fire is burning in sagebrush and grass about five miles northwest of Elko. The fire has grown to more than 78,300 acres and is approximately 40% contained. The northwestern flank of fire was active Wednesday night. Crews worked Wednesday night securing fire line.

The Stanich Type I Fire Management Team assumed management of the Suzie Fire at 7:00 a.m. today. Incident Commander Chuck Stanich said, "The threats to Elko and Carlin are greatly subsided. Structure protection will remain in place around Adobe Summit until the fire is secure."

Over 350 fire fighters are working on the Suzie Fire today. More equipment and resources have arrived at the fire allowing local resources to return to their home units and be prepared for any new fire activity. The southern edge of the fire is secure and crews will be mopping up along Interstate 80. Some isolated islands are continuing to burn in the fire's interior.

The forecasted scattered moisture, cooler temperatures, and higher humidities will give fire fighters a window of opportunity today to continue progress containing the fires. All three fires in Elko County received some rain yesterday.

The North Antelope Fire, which is located in a remote area about 28 miles north of Dunphy, has burned nearly 5,000 acres. The fire will be mapped today to get an accurate size of the fire. Today saw active fire growth on the east and southeast flanks of the fire. Approximately 120 people are working on this fire.

The Sneekie Fire, about 5 miles west of Jiggs, Nevada, has not grown significantly in the last 24 hours and still stands at about 7,200 acres. Firefighters made good progress yesterday and the fire is currently estimated to be 70% contained. The Berndt Type II Interagency Management Team from Washington is managing the Sneekie Fire. About 220 people are assigned to this fire.

“With the change in weather that’s greatly helping fire fighting efforts, we don’t want people to get a false sense of security from the recent moisture and cooler temperatures,” said Tom Turk, Nevada Division of Forestry Regional Forester. “Hot weather and extreme burning conditions are forecasted to be back this weekend. We urge people be very cautious when enjoying Nevada’s great outdoors this upcoming holiday weekend.”

A fire state of emergency was declared in Elko County by the Elko County Commission and a 30-day ban on burn barrels was put into effect.

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